(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In view of the shortfall in loading of core sector commodities such as Coal, Food-grains, Iron and Steel, Cement and Iron Ore, freight earnings have also dropped below the expected level. However, there is some bouyancy in Passenger, Other Coaching and Sundry earnings. With this, the total earnings of the Railways for the current financial year, are being estimated to be short of the target by Rs. 1056 crores.

(c) and (d) Zonal railways have been directed to make special efforts to capture additional freight traffic in core sectors as also in other areas so as to make good the shortfall to the extent possible. The steps taken by Ministry of Railways to attract more traffic, inter alia, include reduction in classification of certain commodities, providing 'Volume Discount' on selected commodities, delegating full powers to the General Managers to quote Station-to-Station rates and preparing a special package for Steel sector. Besides, the zonal railways have also been directed to enhance passenger earnings, intensify ticket checking, pursue recovery of outstanding dues and also control Ordinary Working Expenses.

Laying of double line on Ghaziabad-Moradabad route

1205. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay double line on Ghaziabad-Moradabad rail route; if so, the time schedule and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that both the passenger and goods trains run late by several hours due to single rail line there, resulting in undue delay in transportation of goods;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make specific provisions in the budget to convert this line in the next two years; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ghaziabad-Mehrauli has already been doubled. Mehrauli to Hapur is targetted for completion by March, 2000. Moradabad-Amroha has been included in budget 1999-2000. The remaining section will be taken up for doubling in the coming years.

(c) The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) Does not arise.

Changes in norms for rail passes

1206. SHRI ANANTA SETHI; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made some changes in the norms to give rail passes to Ex-MPs, freedom fighters disabled, etc.;

(b) if so, what are those changes; and

(c) the details of circumstances which led to make such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) I Class/